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(See inside cover)

CONTROL NO. Z-17181/82

NPIC/IEG (12/82)

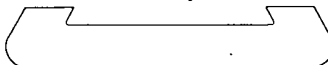
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DISSEMINATION CONTROL ABBREVIATIONS

NOFORN-	Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals
NOCONTRACT-	Not Releasable to Contractors or Contractor/Consultants
PROPIN-	Caution-Proprietary Information Involved
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Attachment to Z-17181/82

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NPIC/IEG(12/82)
21 DECEMBER 1982**NEWLY DEPLOYED ARTILLERY BATTALION**
SHIRE COMPLEX, ETHIOPIA

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1. (SWN) SIGNIFICANCE: AN ETHIOPIAN ARTILLERY BATTALION HAS RECENTLY BEEN DEPLOYED TO THE TOWN OF SHIRE (ENDA SELASSIE) IN NORTHERN TIGRAY PROVINCE.

2. (SWN) REMARKS: AN ARTILLERY BATTALION WAS NEWLY IDENTIFIED IN A DEPLOYMENT AREA 2.5 NM SOUTHWEST OF SHIRE COMPLEX. EQUIPMENT PRESENT WITHIN THIS DEPLOYMENT INCLUDED ELEVEN 122MM HOWITZERS D-30 (ONE THREE-GUN AND TWO FOUR-GUN BATTERIES), 27 CARGO TRUCKS, EIGHT DOUBLE-AXLE CARGO TRAILERS, AND APPROXIMATELY 35 TWO-MAN TENTS. A FOUR-GUN BATTERY OF ANTITANK GUNS WAS ALSO NEWLY IDENTIFIED NEAR THIS DEPLOYMENT AREA (NOT ON GRAPHIC). NONE OF THIS EQUIPMENT WAS PRESENT THE BATTALION OF HOWITZERS IS PROBABLY THE SAME BATTALION THAT WAS OBSERVED IN EARLY DECEMBER MOVING THROUGH THE TOWN OF AXUM, APPROXIMATELY 25 NM EAST OF SHIRE. A BATTALION OF ELEVEN 122MM HOWITZERS D-30 WAS OBSERVED IN TRAVEL MODE NEAR AXUM AIRFIELD AND HAD DEPARTED THE AXUM AREA IN ADDITION, THE ANTITANK GUN BATTERY IS POSSIBLY ONE OF TWO BATTERIES OF ANTITANK GUNS THAT WERE OBSERVED MOVING THROUGH AXUM IN MID-NOVEMBER. TWO FOUR-GUN BATTERIES OF ARTILLERY THAT ARRIVED IN THE AXUM AREA BETWEEN DEPARTED BETWEEN THE SECOND OF THESE TWO BATTERIES MAY BE CURRENTLY DEPLOYED AT SELEKLEKA MILITARY DEPLOYMENT APPROXIMATELY 14 NM WEST OF AXUM AND APPROXIMATELY ELEVEN NM EAST OF SHIRE. A FOUR-GUN ARTILLERY BATTERY WAS OBSERVED IN THIS AREA

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(SWN) THESE UNIT MOVEMENTS REFLECT A CONTINUING ETHIOPIAN REDEPLOYMENT OF FORCES IN NORTHERN ETHIOPIA. GOVERNMENT FORCES IN RECENT WEEKS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN COMBAT OPERATIONS AGAINST INSURGENT FORCES OF THE TIGREAN PEOPLES LIBERATION FRONT.

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3. (S) COORDINATES 14-06-00N 038-17-00E

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